(9) *Permit Requirements*:

Central Government agree in principle to the suggestion of the AIMTC that vehicles which operate only within a State should not require a permit. It was indicated that the registration certificate would include the terms and conditions of permit as well as Ministry of Surface Transport would discuss this with the State Governments for a decision at the next meeting of the Transport Development Council.

The suggestion that the number of States for a National Permit should be reduced from 4 to 2 would be taken up with the State Governments.

(10) **Age of Vehicles**:

It was agreed that a Technical Committee would be set up, to give its report within three months as to whether the age limit of 9 years of vehicles operating under a National Permit should be raised and, if so, to what extent.

(11) Updating of Carriers' Act:

The Ministry has not received and suggestion on the amendments that were required to be made to this Act. It was agreed that the AIMTC would furnish a background note which would be considered by the Ministry of Surface Transport expeditiously.

(12) Withdrawal of Gulf Surcharge in the price of diesel:

Government is unable to accept the demand.

(13) Diesel outlets to be given on priority basis to Associations and co-operatives of road transport operators:

It was intimated that the matter was being closely pursued by the Ministry of Surface Transport and a decision is awaited from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(14) Toll on Bridges:

It was agreed that a list of the bridges constructed by the Central Government where tolls were being charged and the present stage of collection would be intimated to the AIMTC.

(15) Prices of vehicles and tyres:

It was intimated that the Government have no powers to impose any price controls.

(16) Reduction of excise duty on light commercial vehicles;

It was pointed out that the present excise duty on 20 per cent ad valorem on commercial vehicles is not very high considering the fact that the average excise duty on manufactured products works out to about 21 per cent. Government is unable to accept the demand for a reduction of excise duty on commercial vehicles.

Conversion of State Highway into National Highway in Gujarat

723. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for conversion of State Highway No. 6 into National Highway in Gujarat;

(b) whether any such proposal has been submitted by the Gujarat Government; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated cost thereof and whether this project is a joint venture with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Various State Governments have sent a total of 135 proposals aggregating to approximately 37,566 kms, including the road in question in Gujarat, for declaration as new National Highways dur-

ing the 8th Five Year Plan. In order to examine the proposals in details with respect to the laid down criteria, the State Governments were requested to send information about each proposal in a prescribed proforma bringing out the complete details/justification etc. This information is still awaited from a number of States. There is also paucity of resources. As such, it is too early to indicate decision about new National Highways in the 8th Plan including the road in question in Gujarat State.

12.00 NOON

Announcement regarding Recommendation of the Business Advisory Committee permitting All India Radio to broadcast the proceedings of the Question hour of the House

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me just make an announcement.

I would like to make an announcement that as per the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, All India Radio is going to broadcast the Question Hour proceedings in Rajya Sabha from today. The broadcast will be from 9.30 to 10.30 p.m. on the Delhi-B station and will be simultaneously relayed by all stations of AIR. AIR will be recording the Question Hour in Rajya Sabha when Doordarshan will be covering the Question Hour in Lok Sabha and vice versa so that both the Question Hours are available to the audience through either of the media.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Maharashtra): Madam, it is a very welcome statement. But it should have been announced first in the House and not in the media. It has already appeared in the newspapers. (Interruptions)

श्री अजीत जोगी (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैंने महोदया, मैंने सदन प्रारभ होने से पहले नोटिस दिया था .... **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभापति : पेपर्स टेबल पर रखवा दें, फिर जो आप कहेंगे, सुन लेंगे। Now Papers to be laid on the Table. The Home Minister.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Summary of conclusions of the official team visited Ayodhya

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Summary of conclusions of the official team of Government of India which visited Ayodhya on Ram Janma Bhoomi—Babri Masjid issue.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—2259|82]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagdish Tytler. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, the Home Minister has followed a very strange procedure. He should have made a statement here. We would like to know as to what the recommendations are. My information is that the gist of the report of the officials is in accordance with the position we took that the Uttar Pradesh Government has contravened the orders of the court. Is it true?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see we had a very... (Interruptions) Please. We had a very extensive discussion yesterday. And he has laid those reports on the Table. You may see them. If the necessity arises and if the Members so agree and if the time permits, we can have a discussion.

Now, Shri Jagdish Tytler.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): New information has now come...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We can discuss it later. But just now let us...

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Copies should be distributed.